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CLASSIFICATION SECRETCOUNTRY East Germany REPORTTOPIC Military Information from RathenowEVALUATION PLACE OBTAINED

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REFERENCES

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ENCLOSURES (NO. &amp; TYPE)

REMARKS

This is UNEVALUATED Information

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1. On 5 December 1953, the Kraftfahrer Kaserne, Rathenow, was occupied to capacity by about 800 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets, including some with artillery insignia. On 24 November, about 30 troops received service of the piece drill on 3 x 132-mm rocket launchers in the barracks yard. Between 24 November and 5 December, driving school practice was observed almost every evening.

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2. On 5 December, the Pionier Kaserne was occupied by about 700 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets, including some with artillery insignia. On 19 x 122-mm field howitzers and about 10 x 152-mm guns in the barracks area. On 26 November and 2 December, an undetermined number of troops engaged in service of the piece drill on 6 x 122-mm field howitzers and 5 x 150-mm guns respectively in the barracks yard.

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3. On 5 December, the Infanterie Kaserne was occupied by about 700 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets, including some with artillery insignia. The garret story of the barracks buildings was also occupied by troops. It was rumored that a unit from Thuringia had arrived. On 26 November, about 60 troops were seen drilling with gas masks in the barracks yard.

4. During the period under review, one of the three installations in the woods quartered officers wearing red-bordered black epaulets with tank insignia.

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5. On 24 November, an undetermined number of troops received instruction on 6 x 122-mm field howitzers in Samlin Heath and, between 27 and 30 November, about 100 troops almost daily practiced firing with carbines at the firing range.

6. On 5 December, the occupation strength of the Ziethen Kaserne had increased. On 21 November, about 160 troops, preceded by a military band, were seen leaving the installation toward Schuetzenhaus, while about 160 troops and a military band left the installation on 5 December.

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Comment. Apart from the strength figures, which are again underestimated, the information confirms the known occupation of the installations.

The Infanterie Kaserne

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25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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[redacted] was occupied up to the  
garret, should quarter about 1,500 troops, including the Hq 6th Arty Div  
and the 65th Mort Brig (US). The units from Thuringia are fairly definitely  
believed to have been those elements of the division which, in October,  
participated in the fall exercises of the Eighth Gds Army. [redacted]

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[redacted] 152-mm guns in the  
Pionier Kaserne which, however, cannot belong to the 18th How Arty Brig  
[redacted] carried there. The information, therefore, is forwarded with some  
reserve. It is possible that the Ziethen Kaserne includes an assembly  
point for the personnel exchange of the IV Arty Corps; this would account  
for the increased occupation strength.

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